



# FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET- MISSISSIPPI RIVER, POOL 8, BLACK RIVER CHANNEL GAMEFISH

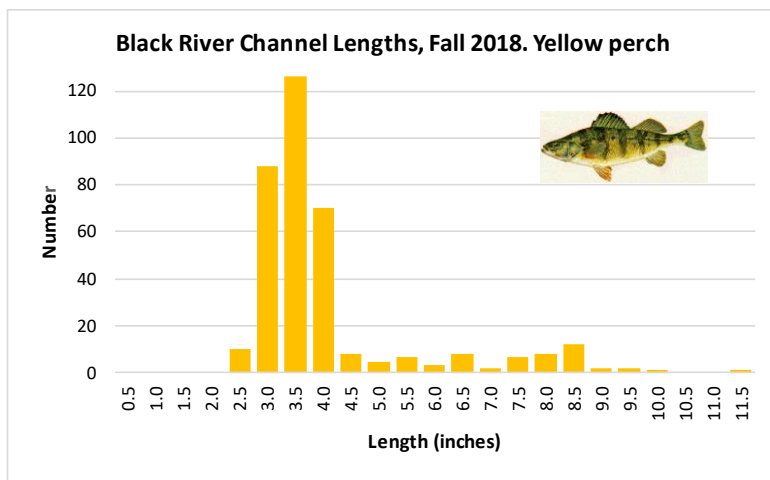
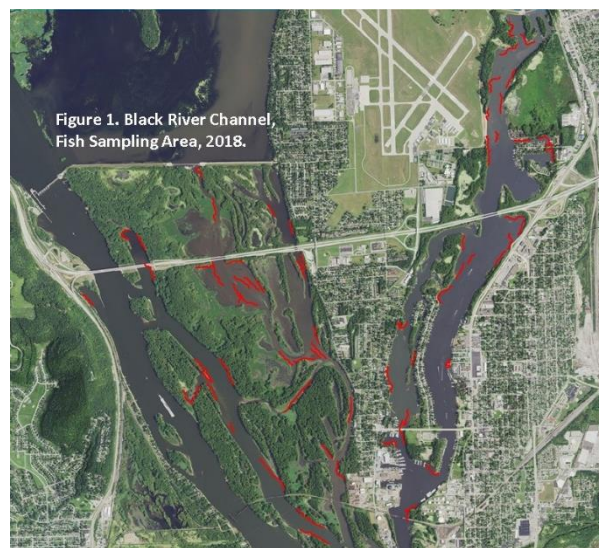
**WATERBODY:** MISSISSIPPI R. BLACK RIVER CHANNEL AREA

**COUNTY:** LA CROSSE

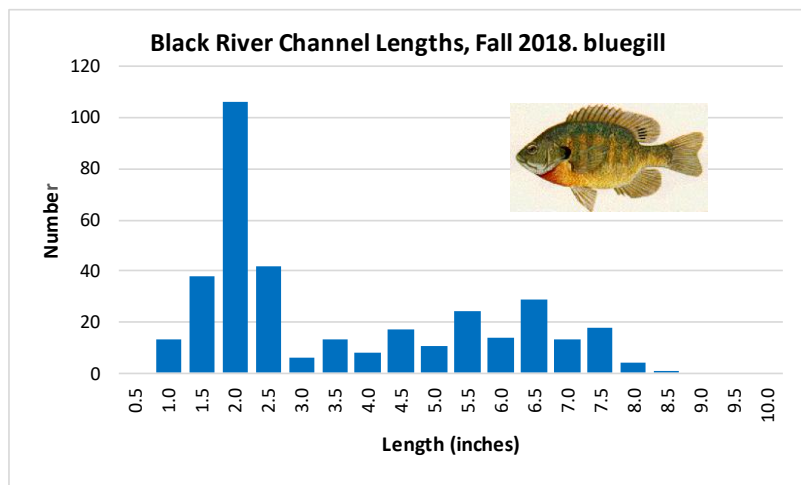
**YEAR:** 2018

The WDNR surveyed backwaters and sloughs near the Black River Channel, Pool 8 of the Mississippi River in fall 2018. We used electro-fishing equipment to determine the health of the fishery. The study area includes all waters from the City of La Crosse upstream to the Dresbach dam and the Onalaska spillway (Figure 1).

A total of 2,876 fish representing 41 species were captured. Gizzard shad was the most abundant followed by yellow perch, bluegill, largemouth bass, and emerald shiner.



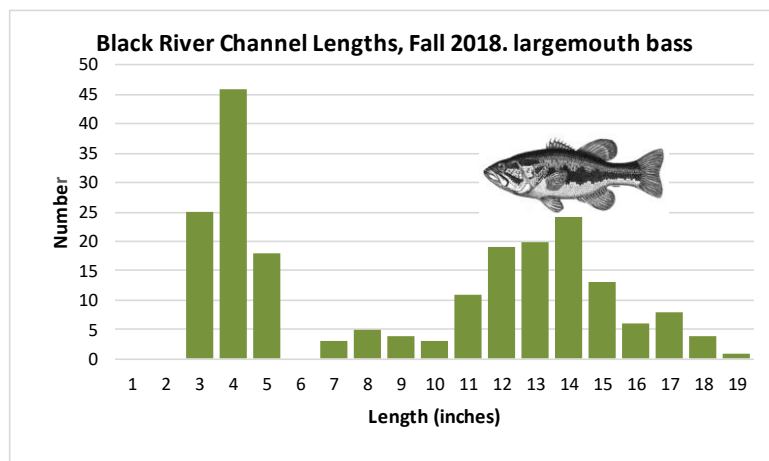
In 2018, yellow perch (n=37) average length was 7.2 inches. This value is similar to our 2014 survey (6.9 inches) conducted in the same area (n=79). Average size of bluegill (n=71) and largemouth bass (n=95) was 6.0 and 13.5 inches, respectively, in 2014 and 2018 samples. Compared among all sampled lake units in pools 4-11, yellow perch average length was similar. Only the Chippewa River/Big Lake Unit was significantly greater (9.2 inches). Largemouth bass had the fourth largest average length, but this value was not



**Contact Information:** A full report can be obtained from David Heath - Fisheries Biologist; 3550 Mormon Coulee Rd.; La Crosse, WI 54601; Telephone: 608-785-9993. [David.heath@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:David.heath@Wisconsin.gov).

significantly different from the top 12 lake units. Bluegill had the second highest average length, but this value was not significantly different from the top 7 other lake unit surveys.

Abundance of Black River Channel bluegill was lower than 5, greater than 2, and the same as 24 surveys. Largemouth bass was the same as 17 other surveys, less than 2, and greater than 12. Yellow perch abundance was the same as 26 surveys, and less than 5. Abundance of combined game fishes during 2018 had a greater estimate than 7 other surveys, the same as 21 and less than 3. These combined data suggest that there is a relatively average abundance of gamefishes in Black River Channel.



In summary, the Black River Channel area has a relatively good abundance of game fishes. Bluegill and yellow perch were a little below average while largemouth bass were above.

Size of yellow perch were average while largemouth bass and bluegill were large. Reproduction of game fishes appears to be very strong. Fish less than one-year-old are more abundant than any other age.

